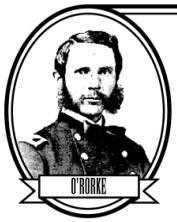

THE LEGACY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 140TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

Mission statement: This Corporation has been formed for the purpose of promoting charitable and educational aspects of the American Civil War; to teach the historical significance through activities, programs, and living history demonstrations; to authentically portray both Union soldiers from the 140th NYVI and Northern civilians - their life, clothing, equipment, actions, and battles; and to encourage family participation and the friendship of all who hold the same interest.

Volume XLV Issue 2 **Oct./Nov. 2025**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

140th membership,

The time of year to look back at the past season and also look to next year is upon us. This season has been one for the books! In total, I attended eight events including company drill, Waterloo Memorial Day, Fort Ontario, Hale Farm and the Newfane Apple Harvest Festival. Once again the 140th NYVI has stepped up and shared our nation's history with hundreds of people.

While each event attended was a great time, Zoar stands out as the highlight of the season. There are two reasons for this. First, on Saturday evening a baseball game started just outside our camp. We could hear the cheering and commotion and decided to check it out. We ended up watching from behind the plate while others watched from either side of the field and within their camps. Our cheering and jeering mixed in with those already there made for quite the entertaining time. Those also watching the game were sad to see us leave when the dinner bell rang. But to their surprise we returned with an amazing beef stew continue to watch the game and eat our dinner. I commented to those around me, where else can you be entertained by a ball game and eat an amazing meal? It was simply awesome. The second reason Zoar stands out this year was the Daisy Saloon. The saloon had everything you could think of to provide a period correct experience. There was plenty of tables and seating, a piano, a period racetrack to gamble away your hard-earned pay, a stage, a bar, and of course, scantily clothed bar maids. Saturday night we staked a claim in the corner next to the stage and sang songs, made jokes, laughed more than one would think possible, and shared in comradery. Needles to say, all those who were there are looking forward to the next time we encounter the Daisy Saloon!

Another highlight of the season is the relationship that continues to grow within the Excelsior Guard. This year at every event I attended, men from the Guard were there. This endeavor, the Excelsior Guard, has been nothing short of a complete success. I am excited when I think about next year and the continue to grow as a unit and share our knowledge with the public. EEEEXCELSIOR!!!!!

Finally, I have been selling raffle tickets for the painting that was donated to us "There's a Devil to Pay". So far I have sold around 40. I need help to sell more. If I could get everyone to commit to selling five tickets, it would be a HUGE help. I will have them at our unit meeting or just contact me, and I will meet up with you to get you the tickets. Speaking of the tickets, a big thank you to Chris Geer who donated his time, talents and the tickets! You are awesome Chris!

I hope you all enjoyed the season as much as I did. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Hope everyone can make it,
Mike O'Connor

Next Meeting
November 1, 2025
3 PM
To be held at
Susan Berardi's complex
in Greece at
1175 Orchard View Dr.,
Rochester NY

THIS ISSUE

The meeting minutes and financial information are being posted on the unit's website. This information is not included in the legacy

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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CIVILIAN COORDINATOR

Good Day, Civilians of the 140th!

We have put to bed our 2025 season. I apologize that due to health reasons, I have missed several important events.

I hope that you have enjoyed your season this year, and that we will be able to return next year, ready, willing, and able to be where our hearts are: representing those who have gone before us; those whose voices we can still represent.

I would like to see if we might be able to gather together sometime in the coming months to have a UFO get together, perhaps? Please let me know if there is interest. Maybe we could use the Holland Land Office for it, since it is sort of in between our Buffalo folks, and our Rochester folks?

I would also like to hear what interest we have for making the most of our coming 2026 season. I would also like to have your suggestions as to what we might like out of a civilian seminar.

Sincerely,
Lisa Sansone

TREASURER REPORT

Next year we are planning on using Paypal for dues collection for as many memberships as possible. It will save sending most paper invoices out and the money will go directly into the 140th bank account without the need of the treasurer having to receive so many checks and do so many deposits. For those without email or preferring to send checks or pay via credit card we will still provide those options.

I am stepping down as Treasurer and from holding any office in the 140th but still plan to be a supportive member. I turned 78 in September and hope some younger members will step up to serve, especially military members, as the 140th is a reenactment of a military unit. Please consider letting Mike know that you would be willing to serve as Treasurer or in some other capacity this next year.

Yours respectfully,
Susan Berardi

Homefront during the Civil War

The homefront during the Civil War was a time of significant change and challenge for civilians. The war's impact on the home-front was profound, affecting the lives of both men and women on both sides. Women took on new roles, often managing farms, overseeing households, and even running businesses. The war also led to economic hardships, including food shortages and inflation, which affected the daily lives of many. The homefront was a place where communities banded together to support one another through hardship, showcasing the resilience and ingenuity of those who remained at home.

American Battlefield Trust

The Homefront During the Civil War

Exploing the life at home and away from the ravages of the Civil War

The Home Front

The lives of the troops who fought in the Civil War were altered. However, the war also affected and permanently transformed civilians on both sides. In addition to providing for their families, women had to assume the responsibilities that their husbands had had before to the conflict. On the home front, people had to deal with issues including inflation, a lack of supplies, illnesses, and extended stretches without hearing from their loved ones. Many people resided in the areas where the soldiers battled or passed.

Women started to assume more and more responsibility because there were so many males at war. In the South, wealthy women would frequently run the farms while their husbands were at war, acting as plantation masters and overseeing large slave populations. Meanwhile, underprivileged women took on the physically taxing work of farming, frequently performing tasks that would have typically been performed by their husbands and sons. Women in the North assumed the majority of manufacturing jobs, which was essential to the war effort's ability to successfully supply the Union troops.

The Northern Homefront

When the Civil War first broke out, the North significantly outnumbered the South in terms of manufacturing capacity, food supplies, and population. Shipments of food and equipment were transported over 22,000 miles by railroad from fields to towns. Twenty million people, including a sizable immigrant population, served as a significant source of soldiers and laborers for farms and factories. Manufacturing, textile milling, shipping, and enterprises including shops, financial institutions, and professions like law and medicine made up the industrial sectors in the northern cities. Despite having big cities, the majority of people in the Union worked on farms. Small vegetable farms in the northeast and big ranches in the west made up the different sizes of the farms. Before the war, workers toiled in the fields, raising apples, vegetables, potatoes, feed and hay for livestock, and grain. In addition to working in the fields, a hired laborer might also eat and sleep with the family.

Shifting Responsibilities

During the war, women's positions underwent a significant shift. Women from the North were already well-represented in a number of businesses prior to the conflict, including textile, apparel, and shoe manufacturing. With the war, there was a significant increase in the number of women working in fields ranging from government civil service to agriculture. Women were employed at munitions plants, arsenals, and textile mills as a result of efforts to provide soldiers with weapons and clothing. When the farmers marched out to war, women took up their plows and started running the farms in addition to their regular home responsibilities. Approximately 20,000 women contributed to the Union military effort. About 3,000 middle-class white women worked as nurses, while working-class white women and free and enslaved African-American women worked as laundresses, cooks, and "matrons."